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FUTURES PLANNING PRINCIPLES¹

(a) It is the intent of the general assembly that all mental health programs, services, and supports, including inpatient psychiatric services, be provided to individuals with psychiatric disabilities or diagnoses or emotional disorders in a holistic, comprehensive continuum of care, that consumers be treated at all times with dignity and respect, that public resources be allocated efficiently and produce the best positive outcomes, and that direct services overseen and provided by the agency of human services and its community partners be client- and family-centered and -driven, accessible, and culturally competent.

...

(f) The principles guiding the state hospital future planning advisory group in creating the immediate and long-term plans for the Vermont state hospital shall include the following:

- (1) an understanding of the role of active treatment within the goal of recovery;
- (2) an understanding of the role of trauma in the lives of individuals;
- (3) accessible general medical care;
- (4) minimal use of involuntary interventions such as seclusion, restraint, and involuntary medication;
- (5) staff training in the use of safe and appropriate alternatives to involuntary interventions;

¹ Act 122, Sec 141a. Vermont State Hospital Future Planning, An Act of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont. 2004.

(6) consumers' participation in the development and implementation of their treatment plans;

(7) consumers' right to privacy and the right to have information regarding their care remain confidential, unless disclosure is authorized by the consumer or required under the law;

(8) ongoing consumer and community input with regard to program oversight and development; and

(9) accountability for all components of the mental health care system.